

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12765

FOR S/PRS

DEPT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

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FROM DCM MATTHEWS (AMBASSADOR IS IN ALEXANDRIA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT AND EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS

1. HEADLINES. CAIRO PRESS JULY 30 BANNER HEADLINES IMPENDING

VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE, STRESSING FOUR ISSUES TO BE COVERED IN TALKS:

- ISRAEL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES;
- CREATION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE;
- TERMINATION OF STATE OF BELLIGERENCY; AND
- PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY PLAN: STORY SOURCED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SAYS PLAN CONTAINING ABOVE POINTS AND INCLUDING DETAILED MAP PROPOSALS, PREPARED FOR DISCUSSIONS. PRESS INTERPRETS WITHDRAWAL TO MEAN ISRAELI PULL BACK FROM ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED AS RESULT 1967 WAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. PALESTINIAN STATE DEFINED TO INCLUDE WEST BANK AND GAZA. PRESS ACCOUNTS ON TERMINATION OF STATE OF BELLIGERENCY DO NOT MENTION NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION RECEIVES LOWER BILLING IN PAPERS THAN OTHER POINTS AND IS NOT LISTED IN HEADLINES AS ONE OF NUMBERED MAIN ISSUES.

3. COORDINATION. PRESS SAYS CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND RIYADH (BUT NOT RPT NOT PLO) HAVE THROUGH CLOSE CONSULTATIONS REACHED AGREEMENT ON UNIFIED STANCE FOR TALKS WITH SECRETARY. "PALESTINIAN SIDE", PAPERS

CONTINUE, "WILL BE INFORMED OF ALL THAT TAKES PLACE" IN DISCUSSIONS.

4. MINI-SUMMIT. FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S TRIP, CONFRONTATION STATES, CONFIDENTIAL

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PLUS SAUDI ARABIA, WILL ATTEND MINI-SUMMIT. AGAIN, THERE NO INDICATION THAT PLO INCLUDED.

5. PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS. PRESS CONTINUES GIVE DETAILS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT. SECRETARY TO BE MET ON ARRIVAL IN ALEXANDRIA BY FONMIN FAHMY AND WILL BE RECEIVED IMMEDIATELY BY PRESIDENT SADAT. OFFICIAL TALKS WILL RESUME TUESDAY MORNING. FAHMY SCHEDULED HOST LUNCHEON IN SECRETARY'S HONOR TUESDAY NOON. PRESS SAYS 140 ROOMS, PLUS 16 SUITES, VACATED AT PALESTINE HOTEL FOR PARTY. NOTES PRESS CENTER HAS BEEN SET UP; NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS IN ALEXANDRIA EXPECTED REACH 200.

5. EDITORIALS. NEWS ACCOUNTS ARE LACED WITH COMMENT ON VISIT, WITH ADDITIONAL EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY APPEARING IN EDITORIAL COLUMNS. AS NEWS, FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING "THERE ENCOURAGING SIGNS" AS REFLECTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S STANDS ON "LEGITIMACY, RIGHTS OF MAN, AND DECISION SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT." MENA SAYS AMERICAN POSITION PREDICATED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ARAB TERRITORIES AND ON RECOGNITION PALESTINIAN RIGHT SET UP NATIONAL HOME. AHRAH, IN LEAD EDITORIAL, COMMENTS EXTENSIVELY ON U.S. REACTION TO ISRAELI LEGALIZATION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS. PAPER CLAIMS THIS REACTION INDICATES THAT BEGIN'S

APPROACH IN WASHINGTON--OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION WITH USG BY DEFERRING SUBSTANCE--FAILED. CONTRARY TO BEGIN'S PRETENSIONS, THERE IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS AND URGENT ISRAELI ACTION REQUIRED TO HEAL RIFT.

6. TERROR. GUMHURIYYA VIEWS EXPLOSIONS IN JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV AND BERSHEABA AS "PRACTICAL RESPONSE" TO ISRAELI LEGALIZATION MOVE. PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA ACTION RESURGING AND PAPER CALLS UPON ARAB STATES TO STRENGTHEN RESISTANCE IN OCCUPIED LANDS.

7. COMMENT: IMPACT OF PRESS COVERAGE ON EVE SECRETARY'S VISIT, PROBABLY WITH SOME OFFICIAL INSPIRATION, IS TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC TO EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH LEVEL. SIGNIFICANT RIFT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US GOVERNMENT TAKEN AS GIVEN; ARAB-US IDENTITY OF
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VIEWS ON CRUCIAL ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL, CREATION OF PALESTINIAN ENTITY, AND DESIRABILITY OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA ASSUMED; AND EGYPTIAN PRESS, AT LEAST, EXPECTS WASHINGTON TO BE ABLE MOVE ISRAEL CLOSER TO ARAB POSITION BEFORE GENEVA.
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